

### **ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE**

A method is described for the protection of fiber optic ring-shaped transport networks, said networks comprising network elements connected by spans, optical paths being installed between said network elements, said method comprising the steps of providing each network  
5 element with information concerning the network architecture; providing each network element with information concerning configuration data of the network elements; providing each network element with information concerning criteria for triggering the mechanism; establishing an information exchange protocol comprising a set of messages and of rules; establishing a traffic rerouting method, wherein said configuration data comprise the ring  
10 map, the traffic map, the wavelength and the bit rate concerning every path.